

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a plurality of transcoding channels ~~for execution by a machine~~, a transcoding channel allowing an input compressed data signal encoded at an input bit rate to be converted into an output compressed data signal encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity, said method comprising:

computing, ~~by a multiplexing device~~, a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoding channels, the weighting factor being computed for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of preceding encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture;

determining, ~~by the multiplexing device~~, an indicator as function of the video encoding complexity and associated weighting factor; and

allocating, ~~by the multiplexing device~~, the output bit rate to the transcoding channel from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the average is a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.

4. (Previously presented) A controller for controlling a set of transcoders, a transcoder allowing an input compressed data signal encoded at an input bit rate to be converted into an output compressed data signal encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity, said controller comprising:

a processor that is configured to:

determine a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders channel, the weighting factor being computed for a current picture from the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of preceding encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture;

determine an indicator as a function of the video encoding complexity and associated weighting factor; and

allocate the output bit rate to the transcoder from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders.

5. (Previously presented) A data multiplexing system comprising:

a set of transcoders for converting input compressed data signals encoded at an input bit rate into output compressed data signals encoded at an output bit rate, wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity,

a controller for controlling the set of transcoders and comprising:

means for computing a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders, the weighting factor being computed for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture;

means for determining an indicator as a function of the video encoding complexity and associated weighting factor;

means for allocating the output bit rate to the transcoder from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders, and

a multiplexer for providing a multiplexed data signal at the total output bit rate by multiplexing of the output compressed data signals.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium that includes stores a computer program that, when loaded into a controller, causes the controller to:

- compute a video encoding complexity using quantization scales and an input compressed data signal;
- compute a factor for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture,
- determine an indicator as a function of the video encoding complexity and associated weighting factor; and
- allocate an output bit rate to the transcoding channel from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels.

7. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the average is a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.